

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the final office action of January 10, 2006, Applicants have amended the claims, which when considered with the following remarks, is deemed to place the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better condition for appeal.

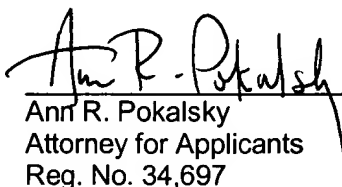
Claims 21-23, 25-27, and 29 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Carter (U.S. Patent No. 5,052,558) in view of McCartney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,460,283). On page 4, final two lines, to page 5, lines 1-2, of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' submission that the combination of Carter with McCartney et al. does not solve the problem of sealing the nozzle tip and cap when sterilizing a polypropylene bottle but states: "however, the claims do not require such and thus, it is not necessary for the combination to recognize or teach solving the problem."

In response, Applicants have amended the claims so that the claims require that the method solves such problem. In particular, claim 21 has been amended to recite a bottle comprising a nozzle tip. In addition, the "thereby clause" of claim 21 has been amended to recite "avoiding the formation of a seal between the nozzle tip and the cap." Claim 26 has been similarly amended. Support for the amendments to claims 21 and 26 may be found throughout the specification, e.g., page 4, lines 16-21. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21-23, 25-27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments to claims 21 and 26, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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